CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

SUBMISSIONS ARE NO LONGER BEING ACCEPTED

The Program Committee invites poster, paper symposium, and poster symposium proposals for the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) National Research Conference on Early Childhood. Presentations may discuss recent research (published or unpublished) or synthesize findings already published in the literature.

CONFERENCE GOALS

The goals of ACF's National Research Conference on Early Childhood 2018 (NRCEC 2018) are to:

- identify and disseminate research relevant to young children (birth to 8 years) and their families, and

- encourage collaboration among researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to build upon the evidence base for policy and practice.

The 2018 Conference will present the latest research surrounding child care, Head Start, Early Head Start, home visiting, child welfare, special education, pre-kindergarten, early elementary, and other early childhood programs. Further, the conference welcomes submissions from all relevant fields including education, child development, political science, psychology, sociology, public and allied health, pediatrics, psychiatry, nursing, social work, dentistry, anthropology, law, and economics. Populations of interest include low-income families, as well as populations that may require specialized services, including but not limited to dual language learners, children affected by trauma or homelessness, children from immigrant/migrant families, children in foster care, and children with disabilities.

NRCEC 2018

The Administration for Children and Families aims to support the social and economic well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities. This mission is represented across ACF programs serving young children. Collectively, these programs promote economic security, health and safety, and positive developmental trajectories, particularly for vulnerable populations.

There is substantial national, state, and local investment that targets expansion of the capacity of early childhood programs to deliver high quality services and education to young children. This increasing focus on quality improvement is evident in recent federal program regulations and initiatives, including the new Head Start Program Performance Standards, the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act reauthorization, the Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Initiative, the Institute of Educational Sciences' Early Learning Network, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, and Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS).

However, many questions remain about how programs can most effectively and efficiently support and fulfill ACF's mission. Research presented at NRCEC 2018 will address these knowledge gaps across programs serving young children and their caregivers. NRCEC 2018 presents research that builds the evidence base in support of local, state, and federal initiatives.

Research topics of interest for NRCEC 2018 include <u>but are not limited to</u>:

- coordination across services and programs;
- partnerships with states and frontline service and education providers;
- using and integrating administrative data;
- workforce development;
- family engagement and well-being;
- scaling of evidence-based practices;
- economic and cost analyses;
- quality improvement;
- implementation of federal, state, and local early childhood initiatives; and
- other innovative approaches to understanding and improving early childhood programs, education, health, mental health, and self-sufficiency services.

For general submission questions, inquiries on program content, or information on submitting a paper application, contact Stephanie Barros at **nrcec@impaqint.com**. For rules of participation, conference structure, submission requirements, selection process, and decision notification information, please visit **www.nrcec.net**.

NRCEC 2018 Program Committee

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NRCEC 2018
THE NATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD
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RULES OF PARTICIPATION

- Persons whose presentations are accepted must participate at the time scheduled by the Program Committee. **Any special scheduling requests must be made at the time of acceptance.**

- Upon request by the conference organizers, symposia and poster presenters must submit electronic copies of their presentation materials to facilitate post-conference website development.

- Symposia presenters will be supplied with one LCD projector/screen and a laptop computer during their session. Each poster presenter will be supplied with a poster board, chair, and a sign indicating the poster number. All other audiovisual needs can be met at the presenter's expense and must be requested at the time of acceptance.

- The conference does **NOT** pay the expenses of presenters accepted through this call. All presenters accepted from the call who will be attending the conference (including chairpersons, discussants, and coauthors) must register. Symposium organizers and poster contact authors accepted through the call are responsible for ensuring that all participants in their events are registered. **There is no registration fee.**

- Those with submissions accepted through the call are not precluded from publishing their material elsewhere.

SUBMISSION FORMATS

Posters:

Posters are single papers (with coauthors, where applicable) involving research or program evaluation on a specific topic. The poster format is especially conducive to interaction and discussion among conference participants. **Posters will be in two-hour time slots, with no other concurrent sessions.** Posters will be grouped by content area to foster networking among the presenters and audience. **Authors involved in posters in multiple content areas must be prepared to present their work in multiple locations of the exhibit area.**

Symposia:

Prospective presenters should prepare a session that employs a lively and varied format as well as audiovisuals and other materials to enhance learning. Symposia address major research questions of a theoretical, empirical, programmatic, and/or policy nature relevant to the conference with detailed implications for practice and policy substantially emphasized. **Symposia will be scheduled for 1 hour and 45 minutes during one of six timeslots.** Each symposium includes an organizer (who submits the application), a chairperson (who facilitates the symposium), presenters of two or three papers, and a discussant. The organizer, discussant, or a presenter may also serve as chair of the session. The discussant offers integrating commentary, questions for discussion, and/or leads audience participation. **Discussants provide a critical analysis of the studies being presented and should not be involved directly in the presented projects as researchers or partners in the research.** Symposia must involve presenters from two or more projects, universities, institutions, or organizations who represent different perspectives or different aspects of an issue. **Proposals that do not conform**

to this requirement may not be sent for peer review. Sessions are considered particularly strong if they include practitioner or policymaker perspectives as presenters or discussants. Symposia that foster discussion among persons of diverse interests, culture, perspectives, disciplinary affiliations, and backgrounds are strongly encouraged.

Poster Symposia:

Poster Symposia include a display of 4 to 7 posters, a discussant, and an opportunity for participants to discuss the posters with the researchers. **Poster Symposia are 1 hour and 45 minutes in length.** Poster symposia may be organized in a variety of ways. Presenters and discussants should not all be from the same project or organization. Sessions are considered particularly strong if they include practitioner or policymaker perspectives as poster presenters or discussants. Symposia that foster discussion among persons of diverse interests, culture, perspectives, disciplinary affiliations, and backgrounds are strongly encouraged.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

For all submission types: The online submission system (**www.nrcec.net**) will guide you through each step of the process and prompt you to provide all required information.

To ensure a blind review, no presenter or author names, agencies, organizations, or other identifying information should appear anywhere in the submission. **Submissions involving a particular early care or education program may not name the program, location, staff members, or affiliate organizations. Submissions that do not conform to these standards will not be reviewed.**

To access the online submission system, you will need to create a new account. Once you have created an account, enter the site and select "Submit a Proposal." From there, select a submission type: poster, symposium, or poster symposium, and complete the appropriate fields.

Once you have provided the required information, select the "Submit" button. The system will send an email to the contact author (poster submission) or organizer (symposium submission) confirming that your submission has been received. If you cannot complete the entire process at one time, be certain to click "Save" throughout the submission process. The online system allows you to save your submission, exit the system, and return to update it at a later time, until the submission deadline.

For all submissions (paper and poster symposium and individual poster), you will need to prepare:

- Type of submission (poster, symposium, or poster symposium).
- Title (limited to 250 characters).
- Submission identifiers to include topic key words, program setting/service, and populations of interest (see end of this document for more information).
- Complete contact information for submission organizer (full name, academic degree, title, organization, phone number, and email address).

- Select information for session chairperson, discussant, and all authors (full name, academic degree, and organization).

For <u>symposium submissions</u> (both paper and poster), you also will need to prepare:

- **A 75-word *abstract* of the submission.** (This may be copied/pasted into the system.)

- **An *integrative statement*** (up to 500 words) that articulates the links between the papers/posters, the benefit of combining these works, important themes, and details regarding the implications for policy, practice, and research. You will be asked to copy and paste the integrative statement into the system.

- **An *overview* of each paper/poster included in the submission** (500 words each created in Word or PDF). Key references must be included but do not count toward the word limit. Up to two tables or figures may be included, as appropriate, but must be embedded in the summary document. You will be asked to upload the overviews as attachments to your submission.

For <u>individual poster submissions</u>, you also will need to prepare:

- **A 75-word *abstract* of the poster.** (This may be copied/pasted into the system.)

- **An *overview* of the poster** (500 words created in Word or PDF). Key references must be included but do not count toward the word limit. Up to two tables or figures may be included, as appropriate, but must be embedded in the summary document. You will be asked to upload the overview as an attachment to your submission.

If these items are prepared prior to beginning your submission, be aware that an average poster submission takes approximately 15 minutes to input online; symposia of both kinds take approximately 20–25 minutes.

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

- Submissions in acceptable formats and completed by the submission deadline, will be evaluated.

- The Program Committee will determine the submission's appropriateness for peer review. Papers and posters that are part of symposia must represent different perspectives or different aspects of an issue and authors must be affiliated with at least two different projects, universities, institutions, or organizations.

- The Executive Committee reserves the right to recommend final selections to ensure a balanced program. Note that if a presenter submits for more than two sessions, it may not be possible to accommodate the schedule to allow them to participate in all their sessions.

Evaluation criteria for peer review (equally weighted):

a) *Appropriateness of subject matter* to the goals of the conference as articulated in the Call for Presentations.

b) *Strong demonstration of how the presentation furthers knowledge in the field.* If original research, the extent to which the presentation represents a new or significant contribution to the field (e.g., filling gaps in research, identifying new factors, or advancing understanding of program and policy evaluation). If a review or synthesis, how drawing together the evidence on a topic can inform or clarify an area of research, policy or practice.

c) *Professional quality of the research work:* soundness of research design, methodology, and data analysis, where appropriate. For review or synthesis submissions, clearly articulated inclusion and review criteria; where possible, use of approaches such as meta-analysis.

d) *Clearly articulated implications for early childhood programs and policies* including but not limited to Head Start and Early Head Start, child care, special education, child welfare, home visiting, pre-k, and/or other early childhood relevant programs and services. Degree to which the work is strongly linked to evaluating practice and policy of importance to early childhood and care settings.

e) *Professional quality of the writing*, including clearly stated project objectives and an organized presentation of the research plan and results. If results are not ready at the time of submission, the author provides a clear statement of the hypotheses/research questions, variables under study, methodology, and proposed data analytic strategy. Results and discussion sections must be included in the presentation at the conference.

Priority will be given to submissions including research samples from diverse cultures and low-income populations, if available.

For symposia, additional criteria include:

a) Presentation of varied points of view or perspectives that will contribute to a dynamic presentation. This could include such factors as branching theoretical approaches, contrasting methodologies, presenters from multiple projects/organizations, or diverse interpretations.

b) Inclusion of practitioner or policymaker perspectives as presenters or discussants.

c) Inclusion of diverse cultural perspectives, where applicable.

d) The potential of the combination of presentations to produce more information or insight than would be derived from the presentations separately (e.g., new connections, new directions, and new implications for researchers and/or practitioners).

DECISION NOTIFICATION

Decision notification will be received by February 19, 2018. Only the symposium organizer or the contact author of each poster will receive the decision notification. **They are responsible for informing other participants.**

SUBMISSION IDENTIFIERS

Topic Key Words:
- ☐ Child Development across Domains and Time
- ☐ Health/Mental Health
- ☐ Language/Literacy
- ☐ Social/Emotional
- ☐ Math/Science
- ☐ Neuroscience/Brain Development
- ☐ Cognitive Development/Executive Functioning
- ☐ Parent Engagement
- ☐ Parenting/Parent-child Relationship
- ☐ Family Well-being and Self-sufficiency
- ☐ Intervention/Program Improvement Effort/ Implementation
- ☐ Policy (Federal, State, Local, Program)
- ☐ Culture
- ☐ Quality/Effectiveness
- ☐ Workforce Development
- ☐ System Integration/Community Collaboration
- ☐ Assessment: Child and Family
- ☐ Assessment: Quality/Accountability
- ☐ Measurement and/or Research Methods
- ☐ International
- ☐ Other (Describe)

Program Setting/Service:
- ☐ Head Start
- ☐ Early Head Start
- ☐ Child Care (Home-based and Center-based)
- ☐ Home Visiting
- ☐ Pre-Kindergarten
- ☐ Elementary School
- ☐ Special Education
- ☐ Child Welfare
- ☐ Mental Health Consultation, Mental Health Services
- ☐ Pediatric Care, Primary Care, Dental Care
- ☐ Family Support Services
- ☐ Other (Describe)
- ☐ Not Applicable

Populations of Interest:
- ☐ Homeless
- ☐ Trauma
- ☐ Child Welfare Involvement
- ☐ Children with Special Needs
- ☐ Dual Language Learners/English Language Learners
- ☐ Immigrant
- ☐ Tribal/American Indian and Alaska Native
- ☐ Children from Countries other than U.S.A. (Describe)
- ☐ Other (Describe)
- ☐ Not Applicable

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